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ings, or dragging up that smile and a “thank you” when the package was socks or underwear.

This year I am going to make a different memory with some grand nephews. Before we open presents at Christmas, I am going to tell the story of the Christ child. I do so by invitation, an honored invitation. One I treasure.

Gifts, memories, treasures... they happen this time of the year because so many stop to remember this ancient gift from God. The story is far more magical than a deer with a red nose, or a snow man who came to life. The magic in this story comes because it is real.

With all the disappointing that mankind had done before their Creator, a child was born to make everything new. The night skies were changed with a new star, out of place to the knowing eyes of shepherds or wise men alike. In a humble home, surrounded by livestock, in a manger a small child is admired by loving parents faced with the task of rearing God’s Son for him on earth. A Christ child who would in just over a decade, astound teachers of the Law with his questions. Later surprising one individual after another with his insightful understanding of God and his desire for mankind. He demonstrated God’s love in ways we could not fathom.

Finally, a cross... then a resurrection. But this time of the year our world remembers a special night. With lowing sheep, a newborn, and two parents beginning a world altering life.

*Grace and Peace,  
Carl*

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

St John Church of Christ  
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St John, KS 67576  
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## The Day Is At Hand

St John Church of Christ

Dec 23, 2018

Families are hurrying to make their final preparations for holiday get-togethers. Packages are being wrapped, final ribbons and bows are carefully being placed in just the right spots. Children are eyeballing certain packages, imaginations on fire as they anticipate what it could be.

It is a good time of the year, a remembered time. If you think back over your lifetime, there will be those special years. The year of the perfect Barbie, or BB gun, or paint set. Perhaps it was the last Christmas that included a treasured loved one, or the first Christmas for a grandchild.

It might be another memory. Perhaps turning up the lane at the family place, seeing the lights of the tree in the corner window... Or you might remember caroling, or popcorn balls, or taffy pulls.

Remembering the desperation of digging through junk drawers or emptying out flashlights, scavenging batteries so a new toy can be experienced on the special day. Or the smells, Grandmother’s soup, or mother’s pie can be relived just through the memory. The crackling of a fireplace, the hanging of stock-

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**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
Worship Service—10:45 am  
**WEDNESDAY:** Varies by Time of Year (*refer to Bulletin News*)  
**ELDERS:** Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,  
George Shelton, Tom Turner  
**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril  
**TREASURER:** Richard Breensing

## WORSHIP ORDER FOR DECEMBER 16, 2018

SONG LEADER: Stan Aldrich  
GATHERING SONG: No. 1018—Joy to the World (vs 1, 4)  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20 (Richard Breensing)  
SONGS: No. 999—The First Noel (vs 1, 4)  
No. 1017—Away in a Manger  
No. 1012—Go Tell It on the Mountain (vs 1, 3)  
No. 998—What Child is This? (vs 1)  
No. 1028—O Holy Night! (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Tom Turner  
SONG: No. 57—Great is Thy Faithfulness  
COMMUNION: Jerry Kinnamon  
Chris Mansel  
Joe Cornwell  
Clint Kinnamon  
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril (Romans 13:11-12)  
SONG: No. 1001—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs 1, 3)  
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 918—Out of My Bondage (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(CCLI #2440129)

## WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship; please come again!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS

The parenting class being offered at Carl's home each week is taking a break and will resume on Wednesday, January 9th.

## NEW DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

If you were not given a new directory last week, please see Janet. If any errors are found, please let her know that also, so that the correct information can be shared with everyone.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Morgan Gunter—Dec 26**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

**Jesse & Justeen Mayer—Dec 25**

**Carl & Janet Feril—Dec 28**

**George & Shirley Shelton—Dec 29**

## THANK YOU

Janet and I want to express our gratitude for your love and support over the past 25 years of our ministry here in St John. January 1st marks the beginning of our 26th year and we have built relationships that are dear and precious to us. We don't take the time as often as we should to articulate our feelings and the gratitude we have for a place to work and grow and help shape other disciples on their journey toward God. It is an honor that I treasure to be trusted, not only by you as a congregation, but by our shepherds who have allowed me the freedom and the responsibility to lead our exploration into God's word. I commend these shepherds to you as men who love God and his people with a great passion. Thank you again for every opportunity that you have given us and we look forward to what God still has in store. I pray for you daily and covet your prayers.

*Carl & Janet*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Kay Kinnamon**—scheduled for shoulder replacement surgery on Thursday, Dec 27th  
**Caylee Welch**—prayers are requested for her to be successful going through drug rehabilitation  
**Marilyn Thornburg**—thankful for good results from recent medical tests  
**Maggie Harris** (Lisa's mother) - recovering from a fractured wrist/pelvis  
**Jesse & Justeen Mayer**—high risk pregnancy; prayers are requested for their baby  
**Dena Mansel**—health concerns  
**Barbara Schuette** (Marla's sister) - improving  
**Marilyn Huffman** (Dylan's sister) - improving  
**Rick Toland** (Marla's cousin in Topeka) - cancer  
**Vince, Teddy's brother-in-law**—heart problems  
**Gayle Sears** (Marla's friend) breast cancer; chemo  
**Kim Staub**—Parkinson's  
**Diane Campbell**—MS  
**Katherine Suiter**—cancer  
**Crystal Easley** (Terry/Linda Welch's daughter) - cancer  
**David Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - Emphysema  
**Jenny Walker** (Carol's sister)  
**Roger Dick**—ongoing cancer treatments  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**June Cornwell**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Glennys Sallabedra** (Tom's mother) - in Leisure Homestead in Stafford

*(If there have been any changes or updates on those listed here, please let Janet know.)*

**Church website:** [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)